

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1729

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2007

ACTION PLAN TO COMBAT WATER BORNE DISEASES

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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has formulated any action plan to combat possible outbreak of water-borne diseases and other diseases in the flood affected areas of the country, especially Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(c) the details of the funds allocated by the Union Government for this purpose?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a) & (b) Health is a State subject, therefore, the State Government is primarily responsible to combat outbreak of water-borne and other diseases arising due to natural disasters including floods. However, the Central Government supports the State Government in terms of human resource and material supplies on their request or if the extent of disaster is beyond the control of the State. Besides, the Contingency Plan to combat floods is circulated to all the States in the pre-monsoon period. The Emergency Support Functions (ESF) plan is also circulated, which details the emergency support functions including identification of nodal officers for coordination, crisis management committee and quick response team at Headquarters and field level, resource inventory etc.

As reported by the State Government of Maharashtra, a system of "Rapid Response Teams" at the district level has been implemented to combat outbreaks of water-borne diseases. The teams are equipped with IV fluids, Oral Rehydration Salts media bottles for collection of stool samples and also stocks of antibiotics for exclusive use during outbreaks

(c) On the basis of recommendations made by the Damage Assessment Team, appropriate financial support is also extended to the States under Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)/NCCF norms to overcome the health sector damage due to natural calamities. In addition, various national health programmes like National Diarrhoeal Disease Control Programme, now merged with Reproductive and Child Health Programme, National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) also aim to tackle water borne diseases by means of supply of ORS packets, ensuring sanitation & hygiene etc. Integrated Disease Surveillance Project (IDSP) has also been launched by the Government of India to strengthen surveillance activities and to promote early detection of outbreak of communicable diseases including Diarrhoeal diseases. National Institute for Communicable Diseases (NICD) is also providing technical support to Department of Drinking Water Supply to monitor quality of drinking water in the States to prevent occurrence of water-borne diseases.